

1929

Circular Letter #49.

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Pupils' Letters of appreciation to
continental American School children
for help received from the United
States after the cyclone.

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GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SAN JUAN

Circular No. 49.

Subject: PUPILS' LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO CONTINENTAL AMERICAN
SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR HELP RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES
AFTER THE CYCLONE.

To Supervisors of Schools and
Special Teachers of English.

As a project in their English work and as something that is really due to the people of Continental United States for the prompt and unstinted help given to the people of Porto Rico to relieve them from their suffering in consequence of the cyclone that swept over the Island September 13, I am hereby suggesting that under the direction of the Special Teachers of English all the pupils enrolled in the eighth grade of our public and private schools write letters to continental American school children expressing their appreciation for what the people of the United States have done for Porto Rico in this hour of distress, at the same time furnishing correct information as to the damages caused by the cyclone.

In order that some system may be followed in writing these letters I have thought that the following suggestions might be found useful.

- 1- Letters shall be written in pupils' best English.
- 2- Each and every pupil enrolled in the eighth grade shall write one such letter.
- 3- Each teacher shall read all the letters written by her pupils and shall select the best ten from each ROOM.
- 4- The ten letters from each room so selected shall be corrected by the teacher in so far as the grammatical construction is concerned and shall be handed back to pupils to be re-written IN DUPLICATE.
- 5- Each teacher shall then collect the re-written letters and shall mail the original copies in a package addressed to the SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS of whichever city and State the children should wish to send them, accompanied by a letter from the teacher requesting the SUPERINTENDENT to have the letters reach eighth-grade pupils in his district.
- 6- Each teacher shall also, through the local Supervisor's office send the duplicate copies of these letters to this Department.
- 7- The chosen letters shall fulfill the following requirements :
 - a - They shall be written in ink on common school paper.
 - b - In order to spend as little as possible on postage each room shall address all its letters to the same city in the United States.
 - c - Each letter shall be addressed : "To An Eighth-Grade BOY" or "To An Eighth-Grade Girl", according as it is written by a boy or a girl, and the salutation

shall be : "Dear Unknown Friend".

- d - Letters shall not ask for further help but shall be limited to thanking the people of the United States, through their school children, for what they have done for us in this hour of need.
- e - Letters should in no case be over three hundred (300) words in length.
- f - In their descriptive part letters should by no means exaggerate things but tell them as they really are.
- g - All pictures that may be enclosed in these letters should be looked over and authorized by the teacher.
- h - Letters shall be mailed not later than OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH (25) and the duplicate copies shall be mailed to this Department not later than OCTOBER THIRTY-FIRST (31).

Yours very truly,

JUAN B. HUYKE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

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